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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/198,590	11/23/1998	SUNIL KUMAR CHANDRUPATLA	CISCO-0610	2698

49715 7590 10/12/2005

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, NGA B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3628

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/198,590

Applicant(s)

CHANDRUPATLA ET AL.

Examiner

Nga B. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 15, 16, 18, 23 and 36-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 15, 16, 18, 23, and 36-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 16, 2005 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-13, 15, 16, 18, 23, and 36-49 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments/Amendment

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13, 15, 16, 18, 23, and 36-49 have been considered but are moot in view of new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-13, 15, 16, 18, 23, and 36-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sawyer, U.S. Patent No. 5,828,737.

Regarding to claim 1, Sawyer discloses a method for accounting for network usage comprising:

obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server (column 5, lines 16-17; column 6, lines 45-47; figure 4; call start, call over; the processing device 42 associated with billing center 44 keeps connect/disconnect events);

obtaining network flow data independent from the accounting start-stop event data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector, the network flow data including data regarding the number and type of packets utilized by user (column 3, lines 61-63; column 4, lines 51-67; the bandwidth data (i.e., amount of data packets transferred over the network) is collected by the a bandwidth use monitoring device (BUMD) 40); and

correlating the accounting start-stop event data and the network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record unique to the user by matching the accounting start-stop event data associated with the user with the network flow data associated with the user (column 4, line 59-column 5, line 55; the proper connect/disconnect information is combined with its bandwidth information to determine a charging amount to be billed for each call, and is sent to the billing center to generate a bill for the usage, "subscriber specific call detail record" is nothing more the user's usage record to generate the bill).

Sawyer does not disclose accounting start-stop event data is obtained from two or more accounting servers via an information bus, wherein the information bus contains the accounting start-stop event data published by the two or more accounting servers; and network flow data is obtained from two or more routers. However, using two or more servers and two or more routers to obtain data is well known in the art, also obtaining data via an information bus is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have

been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include the feature above with Sawyer's for the purpose of providing more efficiency in collecting data.

Regarding to claim 2, Sawyer discloses wherein the obtaining accounting start-stop event data further comprises: parsing the accounting start-sop event data from the accounting server on a prescribed time interval; and publishing the accounting start-stop event data on an information bus (column 5, lines 16-17; column 6, lines 45-47; figure 4; call start, call over; the processing device 42 associated with billing center 44 keeps connect/disconnect events).

Regarding to claims 3-4, Sawyer discloses wherein the obtaining accounting start-stop event data further comprises: collecting the accounting start-stop event data at a target device that subscribes to the accounting start-stop event data (column 5, lines 15-16 and column 6, lines 7-60; the connect/disconnect events is collected by the processing device 42 associated with the billing center 44).

Regarding to claim 5, Sawyer discloses wherein the obtaining network flow data further comprises: aggregating the network flow data at the intermediary netflow collector according to a service provider defined aggregation scheme (column 4, lines 50-67; the bandwidth data is collected by the BUMD 40).

Regarding to claim 6, Sawyer discloses wherein aggregating the network flow data further comprises: basing aggregation of the network flow data on a specified time period (column 6, lines 7-60).

Regarding to claims 7-8, Sawyer does not disclose basing aggregation of the network flow data on the Internet Protocol Layer 3 source address and the Internet Protocol Layer 4 destination address. However, basing aggregation of the network flow data on the Internet Protocol Layer 3 source address and the Internet Protocol Layer 4 destination address is well-known in the art of data communication using Internet Protocol. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include the feature above with Sawyer's for the purpose of applying the measurements of bandwidth data on the Internet Protocol Layer 3 source address and the Internet Protocol Layer 4 destination address.

Regarding to claims 9 and 11, Sawyer discloses wherein the obtaining network flow data further comprises: filtering the network flow data at the network flow collector according to a service provider defined filtration scheme (column 4, lines 57-59 and column 5, lines 12-15; the measurements of bandwidth data may be made by the BUMD 40 on either or both the reverse and/or the forward portions of the communications link 18).

Regarding to claim 10, Sawyer discloses wherein the obtaining network flow data further comprises: collecting the network flow data from a router and forwarding the network flow data to the network flow collector; aggregating the network flow data according to a defined aggregation scheme; parsing the network flow data from the network flow collector (column 4, lines 51-67; the measurements of bandwidth data may be made by the BUMD 40 on either or both the reverse and/or the forward portions of the communications link 18; the BUMD 40 and processing device 42 function as a

bandwidth meter 46 measuring the total amount of bandwidth used for each communication).

Regarding to claim 12, Sawyer does not disclose wherein correlating and accounting start-stop event data and the network flow data further comprises: reformatting the call detail record to meet post-correlated applications. However, reformatting the call detail record to meet a compatible software application is well-known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include the feature above with Sawyer's for the billing purpose.

Regarding to claim 13, Sawyer discloses a method for accounting for network usage comprising:

parsing accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server on a prescribed time interval (column 5, lines 16-17; column 6, lines 45-47; figure 4; call start, call over; the processing device 42 associated with billing center 44 keeps connect/disconnect events);

publishing the accounting start-stop event data on an information bus (column 5, lines 12-15);

collecting network flow data independent from the accounting start-stop event data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector, the network flow data including data regarding the number and type of packets utilized by user (column 3, lines 61-63; column 4, lines 51-67; the bandwidth data (i.e., amount of

data packets transferred over the network) is collected by the a bandwidth user monitoring device (UBMD) 40);

aggregating the network flow data according to a prescribed aggregation scheme (column 4, lines 57-60);

parsing the network flow data from the network flow collector (column 4, lines 60-67);

publishing the network flow data on an information bus (column 5, lines 10-15);

collecting the accounting start-stop event data and network flow data at a target device that subscribed to the accounting start-stop event data and the network flow data (column 5, lines 29-55; the connect/disconnect events and bandwidth data are collected by the processing device 42 associated with the billing center 44); and

correlating the accounting start-stop event data and the network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record unique to the user by matching the accounting start-stop event data associated with the user with the network flow data associated with the user (column 4, line 59-column 5, line 55; the proper connect/disconnect information is combined with its bandwidth information to determine a charging amount to be billed for each call, and is sent to the billing center to generate a bill for the usage, "subscriber specific call detail record" is nothing more the user's usage record to generate the bill).

Sawyer does not disclose accounting start-stop event data is obtained from different accounting server and network flow data is obtained from different routers. However, using different server and different routers to obtain data is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time

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of the invention was made to include the feature above with Sawyer's for the purpose of providing more efficiency in collecting data.

Claims 15, 16, 18, 36-49 are written in means that parallel the limitations found in claims 1-13 above, therefore, are rejected by the same rationale.

Claim 23 is written in computer software that parallel the limitations found in claim 1 above, therefore, is rejected by the same rationale.

Conclusion

6. Claims **1-13, 15, 16, 18, 23, and 36-49** are rejected.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Nga B. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 9:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough can be reached on (571) 272-6799.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600.

8. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

C/o Technology Center 3600

Washington, DC 20231

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communication intended for entry),

or

(571) 273-0325 (for informal or draft communication, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Knox building, 501 Dulany
Street, Alexandria, VA, First Floor (Receptionist).

Nga B. Nguyen



July 20, 2005